GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:878
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2004
PERMISSION OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED SEED FOOD
Ponnuswamy Shri Mohan

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a)whether genetically modified stuff-be it seed or food is being permitted officially to be marked in India;

(b)if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c)the details of GM products which have found entry into market?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE(SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a) to (c): The Rules for the Manufacture, Use, Import and Export and Storage of Hazardous Micro Organisms Genetically Engineered Organisms or Cell, 1989, framed under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 provide that all genetically engineered organisms or cells or products derived therefrom, shall not be produced sold imported or used except with the approval of the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) of the Ministry of Environment & Forests.

As on date the Government has granted market authorization only for Cotton hybrids namely, Bt. MECH-12, MECH-162, MECH-184 and RCH-2 Bt containing MON-531 event in Cry 1Ac gene upon which adequate biosafety tests/trials have been conducted. Though GEAC has not granted market authorization for any food or food products, limited import of refined vegetable soybean oil and crude degumed soybean oil under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) programme was permitted by GEAC.